



Association of International NGOs in Nepal

AIN EXHIBITION AND INTERACTION



INGOs Contribution and Role in Post-earthquake Relief and Reconstruction in Nepal 28 July 2015

Summary Report

Background

The earthquake of 25 April 2015 and subsequent aftershocks have had a devastating impact on Nepal. More than 8,700 people have been killed and 22,000 injured, almost 800, 000 houses have been fully or partially damaged, and nearly three million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The international non-government organizations (INGOs) were among those to quickly respond to the call of humanitarian assistance, through immediate relief followed by long-term rehabilitation work. Out of 116 AIN Members, 87 INGOs reported to have contributed to the relief work. They have been working in the earthquake-affected districts, in coordination with the District Disaster Management Committees at the district level and in coordination with the relevant ministries and UN through the cluster mechanisms. The cost of relief and recovery carried out by the AIN member INGOs adds up to approximately USD 200 million.

Marking the three months, AIN organized an ***Exhibition and Interaction*** program. The main purpose of the program was to showcase the contributions and work of INGOs in relief and recovery; and to discuss the results, challenges and lessons learned from the first three months of the relief and recovery. The program took place from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm on 28 July 2015 at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur.

Inauguration

Member Secretary of Social Welfare Council Mr. Ravindra Kumar, the Chief Guest of the event inaugurated the Exhibition by ringing the bell as a sign of new beginning. In his remarks, Member Secretary appreciated the effective role played by INGOs during the first phase of relief and rescue. He added that the Government is grateful towards the INGO efforts. Member Secretary recommended that AIN should organize a similar yet a bigger, two day Exhibition for the general public on the SWC Social Service Day in September.

The Exhibition

Out of the 87 Members, 40 Members put up the stall exhibiting their three-month's relief and rescue efforts in terms of district outreach, beneficiaries, sectorwise intervention, partners, focus areas, plan for recovery and budget. Around 270 participants attended the Exhibition and Gallery walk; from AIN Member Organizations, Ministry, NGO Federation, Media, NGO Partner Organizations, Development Partners, Youth Organizations and Social Science Colleges.

The Interaction

An Interaction session was held with the audience after a brief sharing from the Panelists Sarah Blin, Vice Chair, Country Director, Handicap International, Ravindra Shakya, Treasurer, Country Director, Restless Development, David Smith, SC Member, Country Director, Dan Church Aid, Sanjay Karki, SC Member, Country Director, Mercy Corps, Dr. Prabin Manandhar, SC Member, Country Director, Lutheran World Federation and Maria Ibragimova, new AIN Member, Country Director, International Medical Corps. The interaction was moderated by AIN Chair Rajendra Mulmi.

Results, Challenges and Lessons learned from the post-earthquake relief and reconstruction

Nepali People's contribution: Appreciated every Nepali People's united effort in coming together and extending a helping hand in the hour of need. Outstanding and commendable role of Youth and young volunteers widely acknowledged.

Nepal Government and Ministry's role: Huge appreciation for the support from Nepal Army and Police.

Sectorwise Achievements: in terms of setting back Education & Health systems, child friendly spaces, back to school campaigns

Role of Clusters, coordination among UN and INGOs: AIN members came together worked in close coordination with UN systems. UN standards helped quickly

Community engagement: INGOs worked effectively at the DDRC and VDC levels, taking flexible approaches

AIN level Coordination: Excellent coordination among Members, sharing of information, reporting, regular collaboration, tackling issues and challenges through AIN, Integrated approach, scaling up middle level NGOs, avoiding duplication and creating approaches

Creating opportunities: Early economic recovery from various INGOs coordinating with strong economic pillar actors, commercial banks for relief efforts. Reviving Market economy that was shut down, restarting unconditional cash transfers. Cash transfer system using mobile systems eg. private sector hello paisa

Reviving INGO, NGO and Government relations: INGOs have International scope across the world for Humanitarian and development works. INGOs are part of NGO movement hence they are close to the NGOs. INGOs are neither donors nor competition to Government. Government must be able to formerly own the work done by INGOs. Urge that the government must form strong partnership with NGO and INGOs to do the reconstruction and recovery work and to spend the relief amount efficiently.

Linking emergency response to long-term development: To tackle the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability, manmade and natural disaster. The very purpose of INGOs during disaster is to save lives, hence they have mobilized additional expats and resources since they bring added value. It is important to link development and relief work on the nexus since there is a big gap. It should be linked to the empowerment process, increasing voice and self-dignity.

Adjusting to the change of working scenario: after major disaster the whole system turned upside down, everything changed. INGOs geared up from development work to humanitarian work. 'Coordination and collaboration' the ethos that shined through at every level

Managing the Influx of external experts: managing the expertise, knowledge skill, energy and sharing of technical resources

Managing Local Partners: Building capacities and coordinating with local bodies. Community based organizations instrumental in reviving and restarting local economies

Challenges:

- Disjointed relations with government
- Government Guidelines/ directives not being coherent
- INGO's role underplayed by Government. Request to encourage government to give more space to INGOs.
- Technical and procedural perspectives
- Accessibility of remotest areas for health care and immediate response/ Air drop and airlift

Concerns, Queries and Recommendations from Audience

- Role of youth should be adequately acknowledged hence they should be provided opportunities to do more
- Government was inefficient, got three months late, hence Sindhupalchowk happened but who is going to question.
- AIN should do Analysis of who did what and monitor the work done by INGOs
- Development and Humanitarian work has to be done together so that there is no another Haiti, initiate integrated approach
- There is a huge gap between Media and INGOs, most INGOs say they are transparent but do not disclose enough information. INGOs think that media is negative and cynical actually they are critical.
- INGOs should be transparent and accountable , disclose the finances
- Being part of conflict is opportunity. Government and INGOs should be partners. INGOs compliment Government work. INGOs work as watchdogs
- INGOs have very well coordinated with Government in managing the disaster however INGOs have given less priority to remotest areas
- How does the build back better strategy implement effectively, how does it comply to Shelter Support for affected family, when the Government and INGO packages are different
- AIN should organize something to bring all the parties together in one platform to discuss key issues concerning coordination of relief work, relief items so that it is effectively coordinated in the coming months for reconstruction phase, reducing duplication and hassles

Views from the Panelists

Engaging with Youth

- Working with Youth has been the most rewarding thing. Self-mobilization of youth has been widely appreciated. Youth are not only the future, they are the present. INGOs have mobilized Youth not just as volunteers but have been encouraged to join for professional engagement. INGOs would continue to work with the youth as they are the most active and motivated group who came out on the streets and roubles.

Acknowledgement of Government

- Government did a marvelous work. Police and Army is government and one should acknowledge their contribution. The Post Disaster Donor Conference was a huge success. The DDRCs at districts did excellent work with limited resources.

Role of INGOs

- None of the INGOs are challenging the sovereignty of the state; they are here to work together with the government to create a better environment for relief operation. The development space for INGOs is shrinking. INGOs had proposed solutions to create a better space but little willingness shown from Government side. One cannot underestimate the people. For building back better in terms of shelter, INGOs will sit together with Government and Shelter Clusters to define strategies for rebuilding in a better way.

Media and INGO Relations

- Journalists do not do proper fact-finding, makes assumptions without proper homework. The media and INGO has to understand each other. There is a need to build trust and need to talk to each other. INGOs are ready to create more platforms to talk. The media has to come up with more inspiring and hopeful news to rise back again. INGOs are keen to work with not just the Government but with influential players like media. Information is there but there needs to have proper communication channels.

Transparency of INGOs

- INGOs follow very strong accountability mechanisms. Development comes with an operation cost. People cannot do volunteer work forever. Aid comes with conditionalities. Aid money is not free money, at times aid gets political and co-opted by foreign affairs. One has to look into own operation systems. INGOs come with a good will and do not come to harm. However, doing development work costs money and has to be maintain quality and certain standards. But one has to ask for and understand the value for money

Conclusion

Rajendra Mulmi concluded the interaction with an assurance that AIN will organize regular dialogues with wider stakeholders even at regional (district) level for creating an enabling development space for INGOs in the coming days.

PRESS RELEASE, July 28, 2015

INGOs provide life-saving support to the people affected by the earthquake and contribute to their long term recovery, says AIN

INGOs, members of the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) continue to work to address the needs of the population affected by the earthquake. The support came in response to a request from the Government of Nepal on April 25th and is provided within the framework of international humanitarian guidelines.

AIN organized an event to mark three months since the first earthquake. 87 INGOs out of 116 member INGOs of AIN showcased the scale and nature of the response in areas such as food and non-food distributions, injury rehabilitation, emergency health care, emergency education, shelter, livelihoods, water and sanitation, in all 14 priority districts and beyond. The event inaugurated by Rabindra Kumar, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council started with a gallery walk where visitors went around the stalls put by INGOs working in the earthquake response. It was followed by an interaction with the audience on the successes and challenges of the post-earthquake relief and reconstruction. In his opening remark, Rabindra Kumar acknowledged the role of INGOs post the earthquake and said, "The exhibition is a part of transparency to showcase the work INGOs have carried out in the relief period and also provides a platform to learn about each other's work without duplicating efforts."

Many INGOs were already on the ground hours after the earthquake. To date INGOs have been able to attract resources to Nepal for the response that would not have reached here otherwise. The strong local footing and ties and the global expertise in humanitarian contexts of these organizations helped speed up the relief to those in need. AIN members delivered their aid through Nepali NGOs and local community groups. Members collaborated with central and local government, the UN community and the people of Nepal to deliver timely and appropriate aid. AIN chair Mulmi said, "AIN is committed in making the work of INGOs transparent and accountable. The relief and reconstruction efforts are undertaken with the approval of the Social Welfare Council and are reported upon regularly. In addition AIN members are committed to adhering to the calls made by the Nepal Information Commission regarding Right to Information."

Speaking on behalf of the INGOs, Rajendra Mulmi, Chair of the Association of International Non-Government Organizations (AIN) said, "INGOs are working alongside the Nepal government. Member INGOs are working in coordination with the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), and act as District Lead Agency to help the DDRC to ensure faster and better delivery of aid. This underscores the government's confidence in AIN members. Further, AIN will continue responding to needs of the community as reflected in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment report developed by donors and government."

Mulmi acknowledged the role of media: "AIN believes and respects the freedom of the press. We encourage fact-based analysis from the media on our work, as it helps to improve programming and accountability towards the Nepali people. We look forward to a constructive and healthy working relationship with the media fraternity."

Notes for the editor:

The international non-government organizations (INGOs) were among those to quickly respond to the call of humanitarian assistance in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 25th April. 87 out of 116 INGOs, who are members of the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN), have contributed to relief work. They have been working in the earthquake-affected districts, in coordination with the District Disaster Management Committees at the district level and in coordination with the relevant ministries and UN through the cluster and humanitarian country team mechanisms. Member INGOs have attracted over USD 200 million worth of aid to Nepal so far. Marking the three months, AIN organized an Exhibition and Interaction program on 28 July 2015. The main purpose of the program was to showcase the contributions and work of INGOs in relief and recovery; and to discuss the successes and challenges from the first three months of the relief and recovery.

प्रेस विज्ञापित

एआइएन भन्दछ, अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैरसरकारी संस्थाहरूले भूकम्प प्रभावित मानिसहरूलाई जीवन जोगाउने सहयोग प्रदान गर्दै तिनीहरूलाई दीर्घकालीन रूपले यथास्थितिमा ल्याउनका लागि योगदान पुऱ्याइरहेका छन्

जुलाई २८, सन् २०१५

नेपालमा रहेका अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैरसरकारी संस्थाहरूको संगठनका सदस्य गैरसरकारी संस्थाहरू भूकम्प प्रभावित जनसंख्याका आवश्यकताहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न निरन्तर कार्यरत छन् । यो सहयोग अप्रिल २५ मा नेपाल सरकारको आह्वानको प्रतिकार्य स्वरूप आएको हो र यी संस्थाहरूले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय मानवीय निर्देशनहरूको रूपरेखाअन्तर्गत नै सहयोग प्रदान गरिरहेका छन् ।

एआइएनले पहिलो भूकम्पपछिको तीन महिनालाई स्मरण गर्दै एउटा कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरेको थियो । एआइएनका ११६ सदस्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैसस मध्ये ८७ अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूद्वारा १४ प्रमुख जिल्लाहरू र अन्य क्षेत्रहरूमा खाद्य तथा गैर खाद्य सामग्रीहरूको वितरण, घाइतेहरूको पुनर्स्थापना, आकस्मिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा, आकस्मिक शिक्षा, आश्रय, जीविकोपार्जन, खाने पानी तथा सरसफाइ जस्ता क्षेत्रहरूमा पुऱ्याइएको प्रतिकार्यको परिणाम र प्रकृतिकार्ये जानकारी प्रस्तुत गरिएको थियो । समाज कल्याण परिषद्का सदस्य सचिव रविन्द्र कुमारद्वारा उद्घाटन गरिएको कार्यक्रम प्रदर्शनीशाला निरीक्षणबाट शुरु भएको थियो जहाँ आगन्तुकहरूले भूकम्प प्रतिकार्यमा कार्यरत अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूद्वारा राखिएका कक्षहरूको निरीक्षण गरेका थिए । त्यसपश्चात् भूकम्पपछि राहत र पुनर्निर्माण कार्यमा आएका चुनौतीहरू र सफलताहरू बारे दर्शकहरूसँग अन्तरक्रिया गरिएको थियो ।

भूकम्पको केही घण्टा लगत्तै थुप्रै अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरू प्रभावित स्थलहरूमा पुगिसकेका थिए । आजको दिनसम्म अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूले नेपालमा प्रतिकार्यको लागि जति स्रोत साधनहरू भित्र्याएका छन्, ती संस्थाहरूको अनुपस्थितिमा त्यसो हुन सक्ने/सम्भव थिएन । यी संस्थाहरूको सशक्त स्थानीय पहुँच र सम्बन्धका साथै मानवीय मामिलाहरू सम्बन्धी तिनको विश्वव्यापी कुशल कार्य कौशल, खाँचोमा परेकाहरू माफ राहत पुऱ्याउने कार्यमा तीव्रता ल्याउन सहयोगी साबित भएका थिए । एआइएनका सदस्यहरूले नेपाली गैसस र स्थानीय समुदायिक समूहहरू मार्फत् सहयोग प्रदान गरेका थिए । समयमै उचित सहयोग पुऱ्याउनका लागि सदस्यहरूले केन्द्रीय र स्थानीय सरकारी पक्ष, संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघको समुदाय र नेपाली नागरिकहरूसित सहकार्य गरेका थिए । एआइएनका अध्यक्ष मुल्मीले भन्नुभयो, “अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूको कार्यलाई पारदर्शी र जवाफदेही बनाउनका लागि एआइएन समर्पित छ । राहत र पुनर्निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्यहरू समाज कल्याण परिषद्को स्वीकृतिमा भएका छन् र तिनका प्रतिवेदनहरू हामीले नियमित रूपमा बुझाई रहेका छौं । यसका साथै, ‘सूचनाको अधिकार’ सम्बन्धी सूचना आयोग, नेपालको आह्वानप्रति समर्थन जनाउन एआइएनका सदस्यहरू प्रतिबद्ध छन् ।”

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूको तर्फबाट बोल्दै, नेपालका अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूको संगठनका अध्यक्ष, राजेन्द्र मुल्मीले भन्नुभयो, “अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूले नेपाल सरकारसँग सहकार्य गरिरहेका छन् । सदस्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरू जिल्ला दैवीप्रकोप उद्धार समितिको (डिडिआरसी) संयोजन अन्तर्गत कार्यरत छन्, र तिनले तीव्र र उत्तम तवरले राहत वितरणमा डिडिआरसीलाई सहयोग पुऱ्याउनका लागि जिल्ला नेतृत्व संघको रूपमा भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दै आइरहेका छन् । यसले एआइएन सदस्यहरूप्रति सरकारको विश्वासितालाई वृद्धि गराएको छ । यसबाहेक, दाताहरू र सरकारद्वारा विकसित विपदपश्चात्को आवश्यकता सम्बन्धी मूल्याङ्कन प्रतिवेदनमा प्रतिबिम्बित समुदायका आवश्यकताहरूलाई ध्यानमा राखी एआइएनले निरन्तर प्रतिकार्य गरिरहनेछ ।”

मुल्मीले सञ्चार माध्यमको भूमिकालाई गहन मान्दै भन्नुभयो : “एआइएनले प्रेस स्वतन्त्रतामा विश्वास गर्दछ र यसलाई सम्मान गर्दछ । हाम्रा कार्यहरूको तथ्यगत विश्लेषण गर्न हामी सञ्चार माध्यमलाई प्रोत्साहित गर्दछौं, किनकि यसले नेपाली जनताप्रति हाम्रो जवाफदेहिता र कार्ययोजनामा सुधार ल्याउन सहयोग पुऱ्याउँदछ । हामी सञ्चार माध्यमहरूसित रचनात्मक र स्वच्छ कार्यसम्बन्ध अपेक्षा गर्दछौं ।”

सम्पादकको लागि टिप्पणी :

अप्रिल २५ को भूकम्पले निम्त्याएको विध्वंसकारी प्रकोपको प्रतिकार्य स्वरूप मानवीय सहयोग पुऱ्याउन अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैर सरकारी संस्थाहरूले तत्काल कार्य शुरु गरेका थिए । नेपालमा रहेका अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैर सरकारी संस्थाहरूको संगठनका ११६ सदस्यहरूमध्ये ८७ संस्थाहरूले राहत कार्यमा योगदान पुऱ्याएका छन् । समूहगत रूपमा देशका मानवीय संयन्त्रहरूद्वारा जिल्लास्तरीय तहमा जिल्ला विपद व्यवस्थापन समितिहरू र सम्बन्धित मन्त्रालयहरूका साथै संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघसँग समन्वय गर्दै ती संस्थाहरू भूकम्प प्रभावित जिल्लाहरूमा कार्यरत छन् । अहिलेसम्म सदस्य अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूले नेपालमा २० करोड डलरभन्दा बढी सहयोग भित्र्याएका छन् । भूकम्पपछिको तीन महिनालाई स्मरण गर्दै, एआइएनले जुलाई २८, २०१५ मा प्रदर्शनी तथा अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरेको थियो । राहत तथा पुनर्स्थापनामा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय गैससहरूको योगदान र कार्य बारे जानकारी दिनु ; र राहत तथा पुनर्स्थापनाको शुरुका तीन महिनाहरूमा देखिएका सफलता र चुनौतीहरू बारे छलफल गर्नु सो कार्यक्रमको प्रमुख उद्देश्य थियो ।

Glimpses



